

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE
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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017228

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDEV, UK, WA, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA, NAMIBIA: BRIEFING OF TANGOV

1. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS YOU MAY DRAW UPON IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN MKAPA DURING YOUR TRIP TO BUTIAMA. SAME POINTS MAY BE MADE TO PRESIDENT NYERERE, IF AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT ARISES.

2. RHODESIA:
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A) NKOMO AND MUGABE HAVE ACCEPTED DR. OWEN'S INVITATION AND WILL MEET WITH THE BRITISH ON MALTA BEGINNING JANUARY 30. AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND, WE EXPECT, PREM CHAND WILL ALSO ATTEND. PF LEADERS WILL MEET IN LAGOS PRIOR TO TRAVELLING TO MALTA.

B) WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS BOTH IN SUGGESTING THAT THE

BRITISH REISSUE THEIR INVITATION AND IN WHATEVER STEPS YOU MIGHT HAVE TAKEN TO INFLUENCE NKOMO AND MUGABE TO ACCEPT.

C) WE ARE AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE, AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE MALTA MEETINGS ADVANCE THE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. THE PF SHOULD COME PREPARED TO ENGAGE OWEN AND YOUNG IN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON THE MODALITIES OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

D) THE BRITISH ARE PREPARED FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON THESE DIFFICULT ISSUES; THE VALUABLE COMMENTS EXPRESSED TO LORD CARVER BY PRESIDENT MACHEL HELPED THEM PREPARE.

E) THE PF'S RELUCTANCE TO MEET IN THE PAST HAS STALLED OUR EFFORT AND HAS EASED THE WAY FOR SMITH'S COUNTER-MOVES. THEY MUST REALIZE THAT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HARSH RHETORIC AND UNCOMPROMISING DEMANDS. FAILURE TO MOVE AHEAD WILL ONLY HELP SMITH

F) BEFORE MALTA WE INTEND TO CONTACT MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSES OF THE MEETING AND THE SUBJECTS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED. WE WILL REPEAT OUR POSITION ON AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS WELL AS REITERATING THAT UNDER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN THEY WILL HAVE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN EFFECTIVE POWER IN AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER, BY PARTICIPATION IN FREE, FAIR ELECTIONS. IT IS AN OPTION THEY SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO PRESERVE.
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G) WE HAVE TOLD NIGERIA THAT WE APPRECIATE ITS DESIRE TO SEE THE RHODESIAN QUESTION DISCUSSED WHILE IT HOLDS THE SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENCY. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSED SC MEETING WILL COINCIDE WITH THE MALTA TALKS; WE THINK IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE UN TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT COMPLICATE THE SETTLEMENT EFFORT AT THIS TIME.

3. NAMIBIA:

A) OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN BRINGING ABOUT AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA ARE ENTERING A CRITICAL PERIOD. THERE IS A CLEAR DANGER THAT SOUTH AFRICA MAY MOVE SWIFTLY TO IMPOSE AN "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT" UNLESS AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED PROMPTLY.

B) WE AND OUR CONTACT GROUP PARTNERS ARE MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT TO HELP SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA RESOLVE SATISFACTORILY THE REMAINING KEY ISSUES -- SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETAINEES.

C) AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE SEEKING TO INVITE BOTH PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO NEW YORK FOR CONCURRENT TALKS WHICH WE HOPE WOULD RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE JANUARY DATES MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA.

D) WE ARE NOW TRYING TO GET AGREEMENT FROM SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA ON FEBRUARY DATES. SWAPO HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO COME TO NEW YORK FROM JANUARY 30 ON.

E) WE HOPE THAT WHEN THE TALKS DO GET UNDERWAY, SWAPO WILL ENTER INTO THEM WITH A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE, AND NOT SIMPLY SET OUT FIXED POSITIONS. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL
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FOR ANYTHING TANZANIA COULD DO TO ENCOURAGE THEM IN THIS DIRECTION.

F) THE WESTERN FIVE HAVE BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM TANZANIA'S SOUND COUNSEL AND ASSISTANCE IN NAMIBIA. WE HAVE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED YOUR GOVERNMENT'S HELP AND HOPE THAT OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS WILL RESULT IN SUCCESS.
CHRISTOPHER

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